

## INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF

5 Jan 2002

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program – Venezuela

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities in Venezuela to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent FAO trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: 12 Months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: July through June.

(3) Program Description: Three FAOs conduct ICT in Venezuela each year. FAOs attend one of the following courses: Venezuelan Army Command and Staff College; Venezuelan Armed Forces of Cooperation (National Guard) Staff College; Venezuelan Army Advanced Course (Infantry, Artillery, Engineer or Armor).

(a) FAOs conduct regional travel before, during and after completion of the courses.

(b) Language Instruction Availability: FAOS are immersed in the language for the duration of their course.

(4) Prerequisites: CPT/MAJ; branch immaterial; Spanish DLPT 2/2.

b. POVs: Each FAO is authorized shipment of one POV, but only certain late model vehicles can be shipped without paying a 40% import tax. The duty-free list consists of those models also assembled in Venezuela that are less than two years old. It is possible to buy new and used vehicles on the local market but prices are high. Due to long shipment times (approximately 2-3 months) FAOs should ship early or consider purchasing a used vehicle in country. Contact a FAO in country to ask about cars available for purchase from other FAOs or other Embassy personnel. Separate liability and collision insurance policies are the norm.

c. Household Goods: FAOs are authorized full JFTR. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAOs for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

d. Housing: Officer receives Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) and must arrange for privately leased housing. Before signing a lease, FAOs must ensure housing meets all Embassy requirements. Current security requirements dictate upper floor apartments with guards. The real estate market is highly inflated and rents are negotiated in dollars. Brokerage services for locating rental quarters are available and covered by Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA). Furnished and semi-furnished apartments are available.

e. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: Embassy medical clinic has a nurse and coordinates with local physicians for care under Tricare-LATAM.

(2) Dependent Schooling: Two DODDS-recognized English-speaking schools are available in Caracas for grades K-12. Transportation to and from school may be limited and is not available from some living areas. Schools offer limited extra-curricular activities or special education.

(3) PX/Commissary: Embassy operates a small commissary which stocks US products. Military personnel can order from the commissary in Charleston on a monthly basis.

(4) APO: A full service APO is available at the Embassy. Normal postal regulations for size and weight apply.

f. Rating Chain:

Rater: ARMA  
Senior Rater: DATT (USAF)

g. Address:

(1) Mail:  
Rank, Name  
USDAO Caracas, US Embassy  
Unit 4934  
APO AA 34037-0008

(2) Message: USDAO CARACAS VE

h. Phone #: 011-582-975-9620, ext. 2314

### **3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

a. Bring Advanced Course, CAS3, and CGSC materials. ICT provides a good opportunity to complete them and they also serve as valuable references while attending school. Bring small gifts such as insignia, unit patches, etc. to exchange with Venezuelan officers.

b. FAOs should bring complete array of military uniforms.

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